Dear friends,

The most important thing is to smile. The best part of the day at the Gan is when you smile, and I hope you are smiling at home now.

We have closed the Gan so that everyone can stay healthy. You’ve probably noticed that everyone is washing their hands more and that most people are staying home. Some people are still going to work – people who are needed to help other people stay healthy and to make sure everyone has enough food to eat. But for now, the Gan is closed and so you are at home instead of at school.

There are a few things I want you to do every day, just like you do with your teachers when you are at the Gan.

Make sure to go outside, every day. Make sure to run around and laugh, just like at the Gan. Find a pinecone, acorn, or pebble, and see what’s underneath it. You always find such interesting stuff! I love when you make little collections of your treasures.

Make sure you are playing, every day. Free play at the Gan is when you play your own ideas, without a grown up telling you what to do. Now that you are at home, every day you should be making up a new story, building something new, and making new artwork. These stories, buildings, and art are special because you make them! You always have such great ideas when you are playing.

Make sure you are eating your healthy food, every day. Just like you listen to your teachers at the Gan, make sure to listen to your parents at home. We all tell you the same thing: eat your healthy food first so you can grow big and strong. This will give you the muscles you need to do all the fun and interesting stuff that you are always doing.

Make sure you are learning, every day. You are so good at learning because you do it all the time: you are good at asking new questions, finding new things, and coming up with new ideas. When you ask questions, your brain grows stronger and you learn new things. Tell your parents what you are learning about and help them ask questions, too. This will let you and your whole family learn things together, just like you learn together with your classmates at school.

And most importantly, just like at the Gan, make sure you are kind. This is always the most important thing for us when we are together, and it is still the most important thing when we are apart. Being kind is important because it makes the world a better place. There are so many ways to be kind, and you are so good at all of them. You can share your toys with someone in your family, help set the table for dinner, write a message to a friend, or clean up a mess. All of these are kind things to do that help make the world a happy place to live in.

When we all do kind things, more people smile. And that reminds me of being at the Gan, with you and your friends and your teachers. So let’s all keep doing kind things and smiling. And when the Gan opens again, we will be able to do them together.

I miss you all and am sending smiles your way.

Your friend,

Noah